

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

### **\* PUBLIC NOTICE \***

## ***Workers at Bloomington's Otis Elevator Co. receive federal aid***

Indianapolis, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that employees of Monroe County's Otis Elevator Co. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Located in Bloomington, Otis Elevator Co. is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. and produces elevator systems and components. Employing 340 people, the company is eliminating production at the plant and will lay off up to 140 workers by the end of the year.

In order for dislocated workers to receive TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees requesting these benefits must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The Communications Workers of America local filed a petition on behalf of the workers on April 6, 2004.

Following its investigation, the USDOL concluded that the decline in employment at the facility was related to a shift in production to Mexico. As a result, any employee, who has been or will be totally or partially separated from the company's employment on or after May 9, 2004 through two years from this date, is eligible for adjustment assistance. This certification follows a previous certification which expired on May 8, 2004.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at Otis. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA and ATAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties should contact Len Tieman in Bloomington's WorkOne Center at 812/331-6000 ext. 265 or visit any WorkOne Center for more information.

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